

REMARKS

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been objected to for the following reasons:

The status of the patent applications recited in paragraph 0031 of the specification should be updated. This correction has been made.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Since claim 13 has been amended to replace missing text, this rejection has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Saeki (6,378,585 B1).

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 14, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delobelle (3,111,976).

Claims 1-6, 9, 11-14, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Travers (3,301,303).

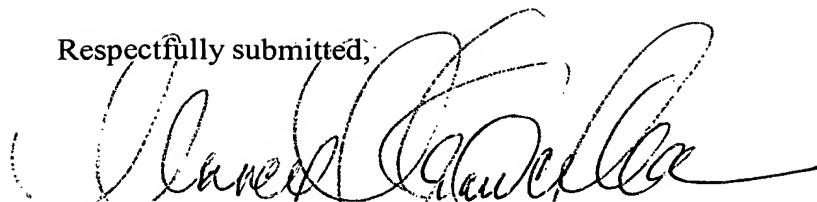
Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent 1,327,810.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporated the context of claim 17 therein. Claim 17 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter therein.

Due to the amendment to claim 1 and the cancellation of claim 16, all of the pending prior art rejections are now moot.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy T. Krawczyk - Reg. No. 38,744

Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-6366
Facsimile: (330) 796-9018